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FOREIGN PLANT QUARANTINES

MAR 3 1926

DEKALB NURSERY BULLETIN

De Kalb Street, Norristown, Pa.

Phone 1597

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Department of Agriculture

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A MONTHLY VISITOR

Suggestions.— what and when to plant, prune and spray —and seasonable offerings of the many varieties of Trees, Hardy Flowers, Hardy Shrubs, grown and distributed by the DeKalb Nurseries.

CLOSED ON SUNDAY



Adolf Müller
DeKalb Nurseries
Norristown, Pa.



MARCH—Please permit me to acknowledge the many delightful letters of appreciation that I received during the last month. It is very encouraging to me and no trouble to keep sending this little messenger on its way to your home.

Permanent values in flowers and trees may well be regarded as a topic for discussion at this time.

It is true that flowers presented as a gift on whatever occasion do not last long at best, but they leave in place a permanent value, a recorded message, an impression one does not forget.

Have you ever forgotten the donor who presented you with flowers?

Flowers do not speak, but they make an impression far finer than many spoken words do. The language of flowers is ever the same, they express but the finest, loftiest and most beautiful sentiments. This being granted, they possess and give to mankind permanent values.

Trees planted, whether on the lawn or the street, or wherever it may be, produce an effect always beautiful, and therefore they are the direct cause of a permanent value, though they may not last forever or even for a very long time, they create or rather produce a good impression.

A city without trees would be depressive, and in this age unthinkable. It would be a wholly impossible condition to those who have learned to appreciate and enjoy trees.

Trees are an inspiration and an essential necessity of an enlightened community.

Trees actually add values to a home, as a thing beautiful and as a protection as well, and there are other values still, they furnish homes for countless thousands of our feathered friends, the birds, and there is no one who would want to be without birds; we'd miss them just as much as we would the trees, and yet, if we had no trees, we'd have no birds.

There is no shrub or rose bush that grows and blooms that does not add a distinct value to the home grounds; they are eagerly looked forward to when the time comes for them to bloom.

Many an incident in one's life is recorded by some plant that blossomed at some time, or a rose bush that is remembered by the very fragrant flowers it bore.

Do you recall any flowers that takes you back possibly to your childhood days? I do. The most outstanding of these are the Yellow Primroses I used to hunt in the meadows, the Snowdrops that grew in an old Chestnut grove, and then some sweet Violets that grew along a creek, and then again the wild forget-me-not I often picked among the grass in wet meadows. Never a Spring comes but that the memories go back to those earlier associations with flowers.

SPECIAL!

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IMMEDIATE POSSESSION



Trees are of greater value to mankind than I can estimate. They are nature's own artists adding refinement to our home grounds and to our whole community.

See the wonderful industrial plants, they are no longer a pile of brick and stone, built to the edge of the property line. They are now set into spacious grounds, the grounds layed out in orderly fashion and planted with trees, so that the workers may breathe clean fresh air and see their immediate world in a beautiful setting, and thus add permanent values to these people in health, cheer and good will, and to the owners themselves, add values in dollars and cents to their property.

Credit must be given to the humble flower bed in the garden of the smallest home, a flower bed no matter what it may contain. Geraniums, Asters, Zinnias or what not, is an indication that the owner's heart is gladdened by the sight of flowers, and my hat is off with as much respect to the smallest effort, as well as to the most comprehensive and elaborate skill of the most famous landscape architect.

The use of flowers, shrubbery and trees is a pretty dependable barometer of the progress of civilization.

Prosperity no doubt has its influence in the use of flowers and trees, but prosperity is never the sole reason. Intellectual persons are always fond of flowers; thinking people always add flowers to their surroundings; their associations are never complete without the presence of flowers and trees.

The most artistic and successful architects will study as carefully and as earnestly the use and place of flowers as he will any part of the house.

When man and nature work hand in hand, the fine arts surely join their company.

We are now approaching the greatest of all the planting seasons, Spring time, and it is well to give some consideration to the grounds around the home.

An expenditure of a small amount may often add a tenfold value. If there are some shrubs that ought to be moved to another part of the place, now is the time to do it.

To change and improve the garden or lawn is always a pleasing and refreshing task. By making a little change or addition each year one gains the best kind of knowledge and lots of pleasure and satisfaction. The mystery of the germinating seed or the plants that grow because of your care is always interesting, and in my experience everybody has some sense of the artistic within him if he will only let go and try.

In March one ought not to be in too great a hurry to uncover plants that were protected through the winter, like Roses and Hydrangeas.

I have seen many plants killed by Spring frosts, and on examination found that these plants were thoroughly covered all winter long and never had been exposed to the rigors of cold weather, but when Spring came, and with it a few warm days, the cover was promptly taken away and the following day, a cold and windy day, did more damage than would have happened had the plants been exposed all Winter.

My advice is, don't hurry, there is lots of time, and don't expose protected plants to any undue changes of weather.

Spring is an interesting time, especially during the month of March. A bit of blizzard and a bit of balmy sunshine all in the space of a few minutes. It seems as if the scenes were shifting in preparation for the grand opening of the real Spring time.

It is very interesting to watch the first blooms of the season. Many persons keep a record from year to year of Spring flowers, and it is surprising how the blooming time varies from year to year.

Many years ago I kept a diary for this purpose as well as for the purpose of learning at least one new plant name a day, at the end of the year I had more than a thousand names.

There is a great deal of pleasure to be gotten out of such work. First of all, we must look about wherever one goes to see plants and discover them in bloom, and if new, one must find out the name. If this is started it will prove a big task, and if kept up for one year the whole plant kingdom will look different because you have gotten acquainted with part of it.

March is the month when trees should be sprayed. It is best that the first spraying be done just before the buds open.

Don't waste any ashes, put them around the base of the trees, they will kill worms and other pests, besides, ashes contain valuable plant food.

When whitewashing fences give the trunks of the fruit trees a coat, too, and the big branches just as far as you can reach. Lime kills the nests and eggs of many worms and bugs and does no harm to the trees.

Now then, we have some 75 acres of good trees and shrubbery, hedges of several different kinds. Flowering Trees, Shade Trees, Flowering Shrubs, Paeonies, Iris, both German and Japanese, and a host of other hardy flowers, many kinds of evergreens, Rhododendrons and Azaleas, literally a thousand and one different varieties of plants, that are useful and helpful in beautifying the home grounds and the gardens.

Please visit our Nurseries and make your choice. I am sure a visit will be of mutual benefit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Aug. Miller". The signature is written in dark ink and has a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.